

2009 Montana Farm to School Mini Grant Program

April 30, 2009

Dear School Personnel or Community Organization,

As the desire to support community-based food systems, serve high-quality school meals, and instill healthy eating habits in children grows, school districts and community organizations around the state are working toward the creation and implementation of Farm to School Programs. Your district or community organization now has the opportunity to apply for a mini-grant to assist in Farm-to-School efforts.

This *Farm-to-School Program Mini Grant* is being offered by the Montana Team Nutrition Program and is funded by a 2008 USDA Team Nutrition Training Grant. There is a total of \$6,000 in mini-grant funds available to support Montana school districts or community organizations in their efforts to develop and implement Farm-to-School Programs. Mini-grants of up to **\$1,000 each** will be awarded to districts/organizations that take positive, sustainable action steps to support this effort. We recognize that these grant funds are not substantial enough to address **all** areas of your program. Therefore, you are encouraged to focus on one or two activities related to the initiation or continuation of your program with this funding opportunity.

Please share this letter and mini-grant application with interested student groups, teachers, administrators, school food service personnel and community members.

The application must be received by June 1, 2009. Grant awards will to be distributed in June 2009, and the funds must be spent by August 31, 2010. A brief final report is due upon completion of the grant or no later than September 11, 2010.

Awards will be provided based on the following criteria: (100 point scale)

- Is the school a Team Nutrition School? Check the following Web site to see if your school is registered as a Team Nutrition school: www.teamnutrition.usda.gov. If not, fill out and fax (703-305-2549) the enrollment form (Attachment A) to the USDA, and submit a copy of the completed enrollment form with the application. (5 points)
- Does the plan address at least one of the five identified Farm to School components? See Attachment B - Summary of Components. (45 points)
- Does the plan promote collaboration between school and community? (10 points)
- Are projected outcomes of the plan sustainable? (10 points)
- How is the project linked with your school district's wellness policy? (5 points)
- Is the budget appropriate for the project? See Attachment C - Budget Form. (25 points)

Contact Katie Bark by telephone, (406)994-5641 or by e-mail, kbark@mt.gov or Mary Stein by telephone, (406)994-5640 or by email, mstein@montana.edu.

All of the mini-grant application forms are also available at the Office of Public Instruction, School Nutrition Programs Web site: <http://www.opi.mt.gov/schoolfood/grants.html>.

**Department of
Health and Human
Development**

**Montana Team
Nutrition Program**
202 Romney Gym
P.O. Box 173360
Bozeman, MT 59717-3360

Tel (406) 994-5641
Fax (406) 994-7300
Email kbark@mt.gov
www.opi.mt.gov/schoolfood

*In cooperation with the
Montana Office of Public
Instruction*

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